



Good for Your Lawn, Good for Our Water

Guidance for Lawn Care Providers

Minnesota state law and city ordinance

and grass clippings be swept off of hard surfaces including roads and sidewalks.

Do NOT sweep any waste into storm drains!

require that all fertilizer

Fertilizer

- ◇ Take a soil test to determine nutrient needs*
 - N-P-K ratios of 4-0-2 or 4-0-3 work for most Minnesota lawns
- ◇ Irrigated lawns: Apply 1.5-2lb Nitrogen (N) per 1000 sq ft annually (50% slow-release) (1.25-1.75lb for rich soils) (2-2.5lb for sandy soils**)
 - 0.5 - 0.75lb at first mowing***
 - 0.25 - 0.5lb around Memorial Day
 - 0.5-0.75lb around Labor Day
- ◇ Non-irrigated lawns: Apply 0.5-1lb N per 1000 sq ft annually

**Minnesota law requires zero-phosphorus fertilizer unless a soil test shows you need it or you're establishing a new lawn.*

***Sandy soils require more applications with less fertilizer per application to avoid polluting our groundwater.*

****Don't apply fertilizer when soils are less than 50° F.*

Weed Control

- ◇ If needed, apply a preemergent herbicide in the spring for crabgrass (may be combined with spring fertilizer application)
- ◇ Spot treat for broadleaf annual weeds in June
- ◇ Spot treat for broadleaf perennial weeds (dandelions) in fall

**The best defense against weeds is healthy grass*

Core Aeration

- ◇ Compacted soils: Aerate 1 x yearly around Labor Day
 - The goal is 20-40 holes / sq ft, which requires two passes
 - Reassess the need for aeration after 2-3 seasons
- ◇ Non-compacted soils: Aerate 1 x every few years, as needed

Mowing

- ◇ Mow often - mow high
 - Spring & Fall: 2-2.5 inches tall
 - Summer: 3 in. tall
- ◇ Leave clippings on lawn
- ◇ Sweep up clippings on the pavement
- ◇ Mow less frequently or not at all during dry spells

Irrigation

- ◇ Install rain and soil moisture sensors and check them annually
- ◇ Calibrate your system*
 - Spring & Fall: 1/2 in. water, 2 x weekly
 - Summer: 1/4 in. water, 4 x weekly
- ◇ If there's enough rain, don't irrigate
- ◇ Check sprinkler heads annually & fix as needed

**A typical pop-up spray head takes 20min. to apply 1/2 inch of water. A typical rotor-type takes 40min.*

These guidelines are based on recommendations from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, University of Minnesota Extension, and turf maintenance experts.

Get certified: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/summer-turf-grass-maintenance-training